NATION

6.5L calls on SC/ST atrocities helpline since 2021

≫ Page: 5 ≪

BUSINESS

Increased security at ports amid Indo-Pak tensions

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

India Women's team looks to dispel tricky SL

≫ Page: 8 ≪

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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CEASEFIRE?

CONFLICT WATCH

22 APRIL
Terrorists kill 26 tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir.

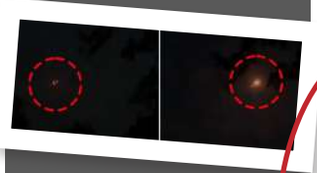
23 APRIL
India suspends Indus Water Treat and visas, Pakistan violates LoC ceasefire.

7 MAY
Indian Army launches Operation Sindoor on terrorist launchpads in Pakistan on the night of 6-7 May at 1:04 am.

OPERATION SINDOOR

8 MAY
India destroys Pak's air defence base in Lahore. On the night of 8 May, Pakistan targets multiple Indian cities in J&K and Punjab using 400 drones and heavy artillery.

9 MAY
Pakistan launches swarm drones, loitering munitions, and Fatah missile targeting 26 locations along the western border. India strikes back



10 MAY (MORNING)
IAF hits 8 Pakistani air bases. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks with the Prime Ministers and National Security Advisers of both India and Pakistan urging restraint.

10 MAY, 3:35PM
Pakistani DGMO reaches out to the Indian side for direct military-level communication.

10 MAY, 5PM
India officially declares a ceasefire between India and Pakistan after direct talks.

US 'MEDIATES' INDO-PAK TRUCE

INDIA SAYS ANY TERROR ACT WILL BE CONSIDERED 'ACT OF WAR'

PAKISTAN VIOLATES CEASEFIRE

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD/ SRINAGAR

India and Pakistan reached an agreement on Saturday to stop all military actions on land, air, and sea, following four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

The ceasefire, which came into effect at 5am, was first announced by US President Donald Trump in a surprise social media post, claiming that the US mediated the talks between the two nations.

Despite the ceasefire, Pakistan violated the truce shortly after the announcement, leading India's Border Security Force (BSF) to respond with full force. Reports emerged of multiple blasts heard in Srinagar, and a blackout was imposed in the area. Drones were also shot down in Srinagar, Rajasthan's Pokhran and in Baramulla, Kashmir.

Additionally, an incoming air raid alert was issued in Rajasthan's Barmer along with an urgent blackout enforcement in the district. Gunshots were also heard in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla and Budgam side.

BSF also ceasefire violation in Akhnoor, RS Pura.

Earlier in the day, the government also decided that India will treat any future act of terror on its soil as an "act of war" and respond accordingly.

People gather near a suspicious object resembling remains of a drone at Indora area of Nurpur, in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh on Saturday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Drones seen in Srinagar hours after ceasefire ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed the ceasefire, stating that the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both countries had agreed to halt all military actions during a 3.35pm call. The DGMOs will meet again on 12 May at 12pm IST to discuss further steps.

The understanding between India and Pakistan came after intense diplomatic pressure from international actors, including the Group of Seven (G7), the US, and Saudi Arabia, urging both sides to de-escalate. However, top Indian officials clarified that the agreement was the result of direct engagement between India and Pakistan, with Islamabad agreeing to the ceasefire without any preconditions, post-conditions, or links to other issues. The ceasefire came after a significant escalation in hostilities, including India's 'Operation Sindoor,' which targeted Pakistani installations in response to cross-border provocations. Both sides had exchanged fire, marking their most severe confrontation since India's May 7 operation.

- In Punjab, authorities lifted blackout orders in districts like Sangrur, Rupnagar, and Fazilka, restoring some normalcy after the ceasefire.

India's top officials, including Prime Minister Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, convened a high-level meeting to review the situation and ensure national security. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and military leaders were also present to coordinate the response.

In Punjab, authorities lifted blackout orders in districts like Sangrur, Rupnagar, and Fazilka, restoring some normalcy after the ceasefire announcement. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pages 2 , 4 , 5

PEACE BROKERED

After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE.

—Donald Trump, US President

India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so.

—S Jaishankar, EAM

I welcome the ceasefire because we don't want war.

—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

At the moment the nuclear option is not on the cards. However, if the situation comes up the 'watchers' will be affected as well.

—Khawaja Asif, Pakistan's Defence Minister

Indus Waters Treaty will remain in abeyance

New Delhi, 10 May

India's punitive measures against Pakistan including putting the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack will remain in place, government sources said on Saturday. The clarification came after India and Pakistan worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military actions, ending days of hostilities between their militaries. India's measures announced against Pakistan on 23 April will remain effective, the sources said. *—PTI*

Five top terrorists killed in Indian strikes: Govt

New Delhi, 10 May

At least five senior operatives of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed killed in India's May 7 Operation Sindoor strikes in Pakistan have been identified, sources said. Among them were Mudassar Khadian of LeT, JeM founder's brother Hafiz Muhammed Jameel, IC-814 hijack accused Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, Khalid alias Abu Akasha, and Mohammad Hassan Khan. All were linked to major terror activities in J&K. Funerals were reportedly attended by top Pakistani military and civil officials. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

'None of our biz' to 'long talks'

New Delhi, 10 May

Just hours after Vice President JD Vance stated on Friday that the India-Pakistan conflict was "none of our business," the US made a dramatic 180-degree turn. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio revealed that he held high-level talks throughout the night with both Indian and Pakistani leaders to broker peace.

India strikes 8 Pak military sites

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

India on Saturday said it had struck eight Pakistani military installations, including weapons depots and control centres, in retaliation for Islamabad's "provocative" use of drones, long-range weapons and fighter jets against Indian defence and civilian infrastructure.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, briefing alongside Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, said Pakistan's troop movement towards forward areas reflected "offensive intent". India, however, remained committed to non-escalation, provided the gesture was reciprocated.

The latest strikes mark the most serious military face-off since India's Operation Sindoor on 7 May, which targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir in response to the 22 April Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people.

Qureshi said Pakistan targeted medicare centres and school premises at Indian air bases in Srinagar, Awantipora and Udhampur. High-speed missiles were fired at air bases in Punjab, causing limited damage to equipment and personnel. She denied any significant damage to Indian military bases.

The BSF confirmed the destruction of a terrorist launchpad in Pakistan's Sialkot ***PHOTO: PTI***

India responded with air-launched precision strikes on Pakistani targets in Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, Chunian, Pasrur and the Sialkot aviation base, primarily hitting radar sites and weapons depots with minimal collateral damage.

India firmly rejected Pakistan's claims of destroying Indian S-400 systems at Adampur, the BrahMos base at Nagrota, or airfields in Suratgarh and Sirsa. Visual evidence was presented to debunk what it called a "malicious misinformation campaign."

India also dismissed Pakistan's allegations that Indian missiles had struck Afghan territory.

The Border Security Force confirmed the destruction of a terrorist launchpad in Pakistan's Sialkot district, in response to unprovoked firing across the International Border. Meanwhile, Pakistan claimed India had targeted three of its air bases and launched Operation "Bunyan al-Marsous" in response, using Fateh-1 missiles. India reiterated it had not targeted any civilian infrastructure. *—PTI*

6 killed, 8 BSF personnel injured in Pak LoC firing

JAMMU/PATHANKOT, 10 MAY

Intensified cross-border hostilities between India and Pakistan have resulted in significant casualties and displacement in Jammu and Kashmir's border districts. The situation remains tense, with ongoing artillery exchanges and drone activity along the Line of Control.

At least six individuals, including a senior Jammu and Kashmir government official, were killed in Pakistani artillery shelling and drone strikes on Saturday. Among the deceased was Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa, who succumbed to injuries after an artillery shell struck his residence in Rajouri town. Subedar Major Pawan Kumar of the Indian Army also died in the Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district. Other victims included a two-year-old child and a 55-year-old woman in Rajouri and Poonch, respectively. Additionally, a civilian named Ashok Kumar was killed in cross-border firing in the R S Pura sector of Jammu. Several others sustained injuries in various incidents across the region. The Pakistani military's shelling has also injured eight BSF personnel in Jammu's R S Pura sector. In Rajouri, artillery shells and suspected drones targeted residential areas, including Rehari and Roop Nagar, injuring four individuals, including a local journalist. *—PTI*

Bereaved family members of Zakir Hussain in Jammu on Saturday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Naale Baa: The City's oldest chilling legend

Naale Baa (Come Tomorrow) is one of Bengaluru's most chilling urban legends, said to have originated in rural Karnataka before creeping into the city's old neighbourhoods. The story centres around a ghost—often described as a bride who died on her wedding day—believed to roam the streets at night.

Locals feared the spirit could mimic the voice of a loved one to lure victims into opening their doors, leading to mysterious deaths. To ward her off, people began writing "Naale Baa" in white chalk on their walls and doors.

The ghost, bound by the message, would return the next day—trapped in an endless cycle.

Though the city has modernised, traces of this eerie folklore still linger in its older quarters and occasionally appear in films and pop culture. Naale Baa remains a haunting reminder of Bengaluru's supernatural past.

Salar News revisits the City's most enduring ghost story. *>>>More on Page 3*

India saw over 20L excess deaths in 2021: Govt

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

India recorded over 1 crore deaths in 2021, marking the deadliest year of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to data released by the Union government on 7 May. The figure represents an increase of nearly 21 lakh deaths compared to 2020, a rise of approximately 21 per cent. While not all deaths can be attributed directly to Covid-19, analysts suggest this stark increase highlights significant underreporting of pandemic-related fatalities.

Excess deaths, calculated by comparing actual deaths to pre-pandemic projections, were six times higher than the official Covid-19 death toll of 3.3 lakh for 2021. This discrepancy suggests that many Covid-19 deaths went unrecorded or undercounted.

In contrast, previous years had seen annual increases in total deaths ranging from 1.3 per cent in 2016 to nearly 10 per cent in 2019. The sharp rise in 2021, however, underscores the scale of the pandemic's true impact, with many deaths potentially missed by the official tally. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 5

PHOTO: X

BBMP imposes meat ban on Buddha Purnima

BENGALURU 10 MAY

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has imposed a one-day ban on animal slaughter and meat sale across Bengaluru on Monday, in observance of Buddha Purnima. All slaughterhouses and meat shops within BBMP limits must remain closed. The civic body's Animal Husbandry Department stated the move is to respect religious sentiments. Officials warned of action against violators, with routine checks to ensure compliance. Such bans are routinely enforced during major religious festivals. *—Salar News*

Old rivalry leads to attempted murder of Mandya youth

MYSURU, 10 MAY

A gang of five youths allegedly attempted to murder another youth by brutally attacking him with weapons over an old rivalry at Udayagiri in Mandya, on Friday night. According to Police, the injured youth was identified as Kiran,26, resident of Udayagiri. He is at Victoria Hospital in the City, battling for his life. The five have been identified as Vardhan, Varun, Manu, Govindraju and Madan residents of Mandya. Kiran and Vardhan, who were push cart vendors in the City, had a fight between them over business. Kiran, who was serving thee months in jail for a petty case, was released three days back. The two had another fight on Friday, where the accused five attacked him when he was sleeping at his godown in Udayagiri. *—Salar News*

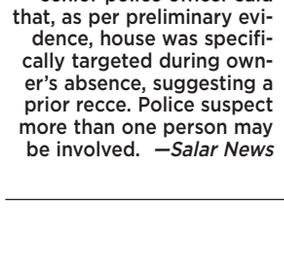


PHOTO: X

Ornaments worth Rs 50L stolen from a locked house

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

Unidentified burglars stole gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh from a locked house in SSA Layout, Yelahanka New Town, by smashing the rear safety grill. The theft came to light on 5 May night when homeowner, Duru Jaswal, returned from a vacation in Mysuru. She found back grill broken and the cupboard inside the house pried open. Around 350 grams of gold and diamond ornaments were missing. Yelahanka New Town police were alerted immediately. A dog squad and forensic team visited the scene, and CCTV footage from nearby streets is being analysed. Speaking to **Salar News**, a senior police officer said that, as per preliminary evidence, house was specifically targeted during owner's absence, suggesting a prior recce. Police suspect more than one person may be involved. *—Salar News*

'No leave for cops till normalcy returns'

HM says a special meeting will be held with CM to review methods to deal with the situation

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

In view of the prevailing security situation in the country, policemen will not be given leaves, State Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Saturday.

He said the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will hold a special meeting this evening to review the preparedness to deal with any situation.

"We will not approve any leaves or holidays of policemen at this juncture because we don't know when normalcy returns. The Centre will inform us when the normalcy returns. Till such time we have to be alert," Parameshwara told reporters here.

He said the State government has to work effectively everywhere especially in the coastal region.

According to Parameshwara, there are three layers of security in the coastal area, which are police, security arranged by ports and the Indian Navy.

He also said that Siddaramaiah will chair a meeting with officials of Home and Revenue Department to review the preparedness of the state government to deal with any situation.

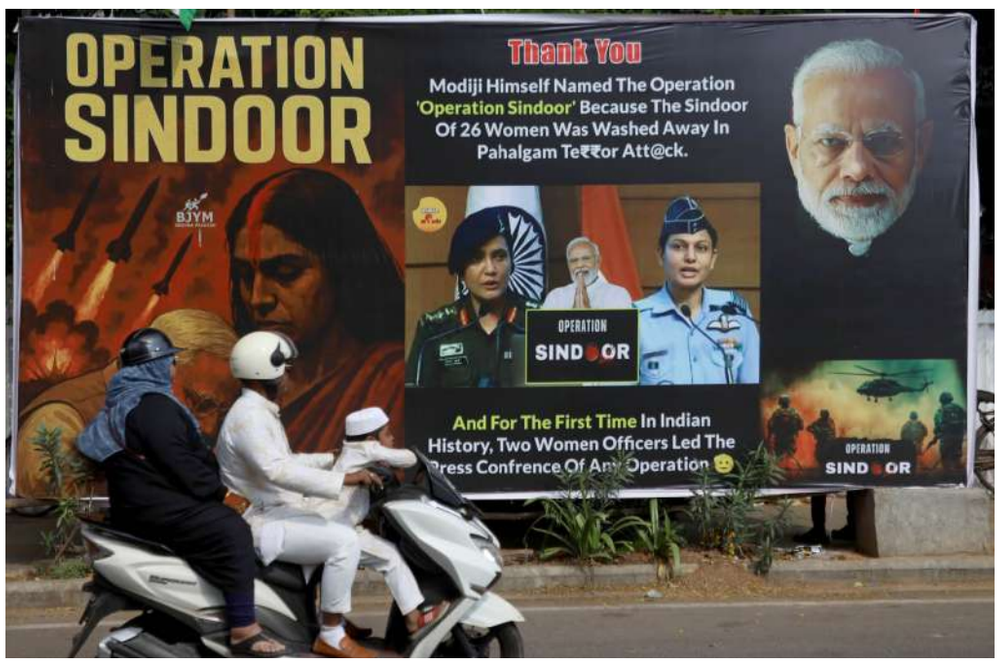
The CM would review the availability of essential commodities and all other equipments to deal with any crisis that may emerge in the wake of "war like situation" in the country, he explained.

"All the necessary arrangements such as ensuring availability of food grains, essential commodities, water, hospitals and medicines have to be made. It is just a preparation," Parameshwara said.

During the meeting the CM will also discuss any latest advisory that might have come from the Centre the previous day, the Minister said.

Accordingly State government has taken measures.

"We have tightened the security in and around sensitive locations. We have also identified some locations where suspicious activities can happen. We have sensitised all the locations in the state," Parameshwara said. *—PTI*


OPERATION SINDOOR
Thank You
Modiji Himself Named The Operation 'Operation Sindoor' Because The Sindoor Of 26 Women Was Washed Away In Pahalgam Te❌or Att@ck.
OPERATION SINDOOR
And For The First Time In Indian History, Two Women Officers Led The Press Confrence Of An Operation
OPERATION SINDOOR

A poster is put up on St. John's Road near Lavanya theater to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Operation Sindoor, in Bengaluru, on Saturday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

> **Our soldiers are putting their lives on line to fight terrorism. In this backdrop, it is not appropriate to celebrate my birthday. I appeal to all my followers, fans and party workers not to celebrate my birthday on 15 May**
>
> -DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Security tightened at Kalaburagi airport

KALABURAGI, 10 MAY

In light of rising tensions between India and Pakistan, security at Kalaburagi Airport has been significantly tightened. While flight operations continue as scheduled, passengers are being advised to arrive at least two hours before departure due to enhanced security checks.

Airport Director Mahesh has urged travellers to cooperate fully with staff and follow instructions to avoid delays. Visitor passes have been suspended during this period, and passengers are encouraged to limit the number of people accompanying them for drop-offs or pick-ups.

Across Kalaburagi city, security forces are on high alert. The Bomb Disposal Squad and local police are conducting thorough checks in sensitive locations such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Circle, the Deputy Commissioner's office, the central bus stand, and the railway station. Unattended bags and parked motorcycles are being closely inspected to prevent any untoward incidents. Cooperation from the public is seen as vital in maintaining safety during this sensitive time. *—Salar News*

Airport Director Mahesh has urged travellers to cooperate with staff and follow instructions to avoid delays **PHOTO: SALAR**

CM orders crackdown on illegal stockpiling, black mkts

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

State Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday directed officials to crackdown on illegal stockpiling and black marketing of essential commodities in the State.

Chairing a meeting with officials of various departments, he highlighted the need to combat fake news and keep a close watch on those inciting communal tensions.

"There should be continuous monitoring of illegal stockpiling and black market activities, and attempts to increase the price of goods unnecessarily should be prevented," he said.

He also directed all Deputy Commissioners (DC) and Superintendents of Police (SP) to hold daily media briefings until the ongoing crisis is brought under control.

At the meeting, officials were directed to take strict action against attempts to disrupt communal harmony. The list of communal mongers should be updated and they should be kept under surveillance.

Siddaramaiah stressed the need to curb fake news in the State "Be careful to avoid spreading fake news in the media and social media. Nothing is bigger than the law and order of the State. Give first priority to the protection of the people of the State."

Regarding security related exercises, he said mock drills should be conducted at important places.

He also emphasised strengthening the intelligence network to ensure better security at public service delivery sites.

He said, recruitment of volunteers for civil defence system should begin, registrations should be done online.

Siddaramaiah said fire brigade stations should be on a standby round-the-clock till normalcy returns. Further, help centres and helplines should be started in all districts and. *—PTI*

Chairing a meeting with officials of various departments, he highlighted the need to combat fake news and keep a close watch on those inciting communal tensions. **PHOTO: X/@SIDDARAMIAH**

Provocative graffiti targets Udupi hostel

UDUPI, 10 MAY

- According to a police statement, the slogans appeared to have been designed to provoke disharmony between two communities.

Inflammatory and obscene graffiti, targeting religious communities, was found in the bathroom wall of the women's hostel of a reputed engineering college in this district, police said on Saturday.

The incident came to light on the evening of 7 May, when provocative slogans were discovered written in English on a bathroom wall of the main block of the girls' hostel, located in Nitte, a place in Karkala taluk.

According to a police statement, the slogans appeared to have been designed to provoke disharmony between two communities. The writing in offensive language, was reported by the hostel manager to local police.

Based on the complaint, Karkala Rural Police have registered a case under Section 353(2) that deals with making, publishing, or circulating statements containing false information, rumours, or alarming news with the intent of creating or promoting feelings of enmity, hatred, or ill will between different groups, of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"A case has been registered, and we are in the process of identifying those responsible," Superintendent of Police, Udupi district, Arun K said.

Police are reviewing CCTV footage and questioning students in connection with the case. While preliminary reports suggest the involvement of a female student, officials have not yet zeroed in on any suspects.

The incident has sparked concern over increasing instances of polarising expressions within educational institutions. The college administration has not yet released an official statement. *—PTI*

B'luru: Drunken argument leads to techie's death

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

A late-night party in Venkateshwara Layout turned tragic when a 28-year-old techie was bludgeoned to death with a cement brick following a drunken argument.

The incident occurred around 10pm on Friday on the terrace of a residential building on 18th A Cross, under Madiwala Police jurisdiction.

The deceased, Martin Simon, had been living with his family on the second floor of the building for five years and was employed at a City software company. The accused, Vincent Raju, 26, had been residing in the same building for over a year. The two were reportedly close friends.

Police said the duo were drinking on the terrace when a quarrel broke out, allegedly fuelled by alcohol. The verbal altercation escalated into a physical brawl, during which Raju allegedly struck Simon on the head with a cement brick, killing him instantly. He fled the scene thereafter. Hearing the commotion, other residents rushed out and reportedly saw Raju running away. They discovered Simon lying in a pool of blood and alerted the police.

Police questioned victim's family, and sent the body to St John's Hospital for a post-mortem. *—Salar News*

Miss World 2025 kicks off in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD 10 MAY

Amid vibrant cultural performances celebrating Telangana's heritage, the Miss World pageant commenced here on Saturday with each delegate set to present a unique cultural identity and a mission reflecting the contest's theme, 'Beauty with a Purpose'.

As many as 110 contestants, representing countries and territories from every continent, including major nations such as India, USA, Venezuela, and South Africa, as well as culturally rich regions like Guadeloupe, Gibraltar, Martinique, and Curaçao have already descended on the City of Pearls, Hyderabad.

According to government sources, another half a dozen contestants are expected to arrive in the next couple of days.

The event will go on until May 31. This year, Nandini Gupta, winner of Femina Miss India World 2023, is representing India at the event.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy declared the event open. *—PTI*

Archbishop calls for spl prayers amid new Pope's elections

BENGALURU 10 MAY

The Archdiocese of City has called upon the faithful to offer special prayers this Sunday in response to two significant yet contrasting events — the joyous election of a new Pope and the tragic terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

In an official statement, Archbishop Peter Machado expressed elation over the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as Pope Leo XIV, successor to Pope Francis. Describing it as a moment of "profound joy and renewed hope for the Universal Church," he urged Catholics to give thanks and pray for the new pontiff's strength and guidance.

However, this celebration is shadowed by the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed multiple lives and left many injured. Archbishop Machado condemned the "brutal and cowardly" act, expressed solidarity with victims' families, and called for prayers for the departed souls.

He also lauded the efforts of the armed forces and the Central government, especially "Operation Sindoor" launched by the Prime Minister to reinforce national security in the aftermath of the attack. *—Salar News*

AMID ROAD RAGE

Bizman's luxury car stolen in City

BENGALURU 10 MAY

In a shocking case of alleged road rage and robbery, a businessman was assaulted and robbed of his luxury car and valuables worth over Rs 56 lakh in the upscale Lavelle Road area during the early hours of 3 May.

The victim, Vinay Gowda, a resident of Papanna Street on St Mark's Road, reported that the incident occurred around 4.15am as he was taking his car out of the basement of East Grand Apartment. His vehicle accidentally brushed against a roadside car belonging to a woman identified as Deepthi.

A verbal spat ensued, following which Deepthi allegedly called two of her associates. As per the FIR, the trio assaulted Gowda and drove off in his car, which contained Rs 1.25 lakh in cash, a pair of sunglasses worth Rs 85,000, and a wallet valued at Rs 1.5 lakh. The stolen vehicle itself is valued at Rs 6.14 lakh.

Gowda claims that when he pleaded for his car's return, Deepthi demanded Rs 20 lakh as compensation for damage to her car. He has lodged a complaint with Cubbon Park Police, seeking action for assault, theft, and criminal intimidation.

Police have registered a case and are reviewing CCTV footage. Investigations are underway. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: CHATGPT

- The victim, Vinay Gowda, a resident of Papanna Street on St Mark's Road, reported that the incident occurred around 4.15am as he was taking his car out of the basement of East Grand Apartment.

Mysuru Palace holds mock drills

MYSURU, 10 MAY

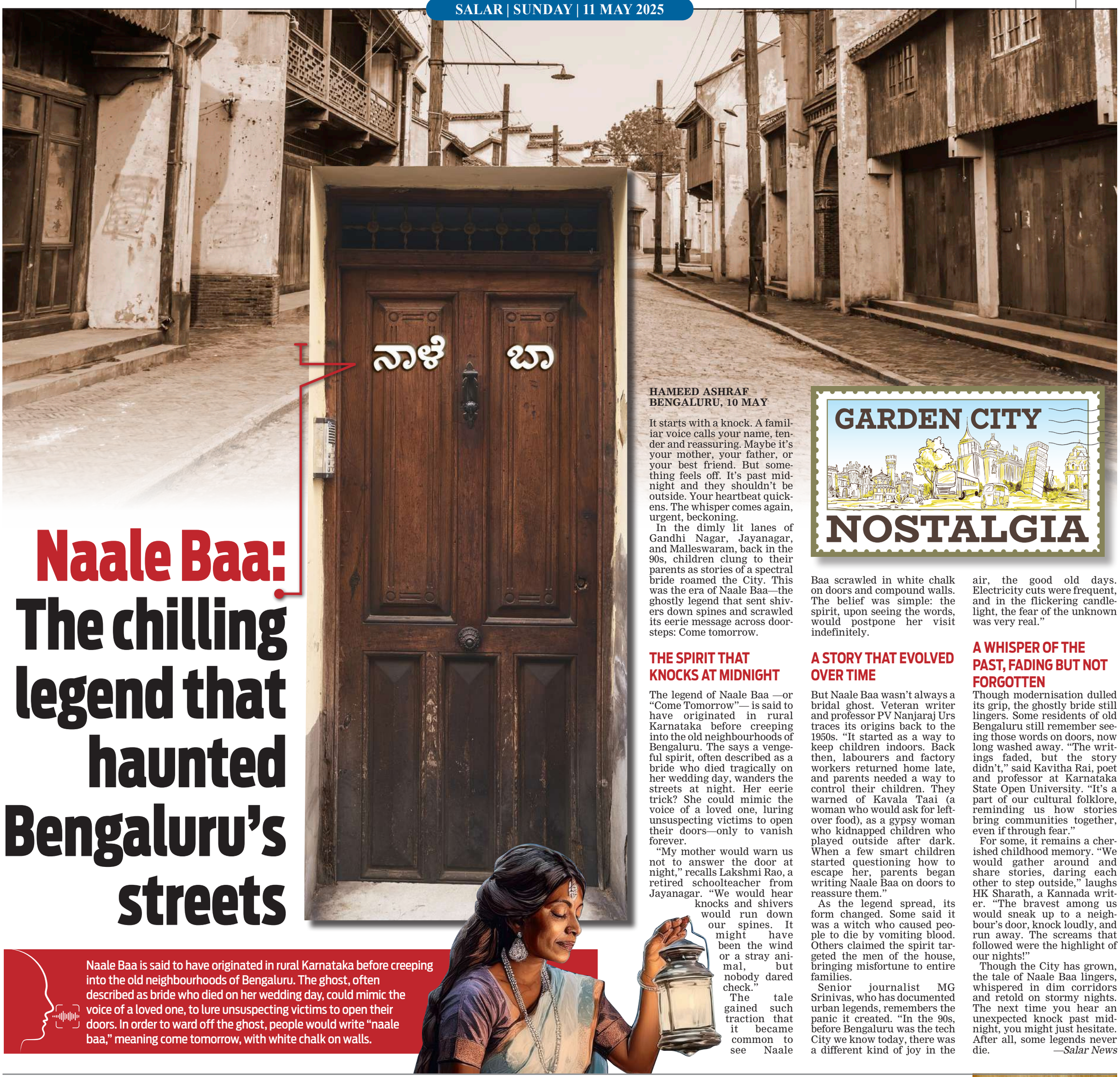
A large-scale civil defence mock drill was conducted at Amba Vilas Palace on Saturday to train civilians, students, and officials on how to respond during hostile attacks. Organised by the district administration under the guidance of the Union Ministries of Defence and Home Affairs, the exercise aimed to strengthen preparedness at the grassroots level.

The drill featured realistic scenes—blaring sirens, people being evacuated, fire and emergency teams scaling buildings, and medical staff treating "injured" civilians. About 33 commandos of the CISF (RBI) led by Assistant Commandant Brijeshkumar participated alongside officers from Fire and Emergency Services, including Chief Officer Javaraiah and Regional Officer Chandan.

Over 500 police personnel, including City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar and DCP Mutturaj, were involved. Nursing staff from KR Hospital, Home Guards, Civil Defence wardens, NCC, NSS, NYKS members, and students also took part.

The exercise covered crash blackouts, camouflaging vital installations, evacuation drills, firefighting, shelter-building, and first-aid techniques. Palace visitors watched in awe as the mock operation unfolded, bringing awareness on how to react in a real crisis. *—Salar News*

Palace visitors watched in awe as the mock operation unfolded, bringing awareness on how to react in a real crisis **PHOTO: SALAR**



Naale Baa: The chilling legend that haunted Bengaluru's streets

Naale Baa is said to have originated in rural Karnataka before creeping into the old neighbourhoods of Bengaluru. The ghost, often described as bride who died on her wedding day, could mimic the voice of a loved one, to lure unsuspecting victims to open their doors. In order to ward off the ghost, people would write "naale baa," meaning come tomorrow, with white chalk on walls.

HAMEED ASHRAF
BENGALURU, 10 MAY

It starts with a knock. A familiar voice calls your name, tender and reassuring. Maybe it's your mother, your father, or your best friend. But something feels off. It's past midnight and they shouldn't be outside. Your heartbeat quickens. The whisper comes again, urgent, beckoning.

In the dimly lit lanes of Gandhi Nagar, Jayanagar, and Malleswaram, back in the 90s, children clung to their parents as stories of a spectral bride roamed the City. This was the era of Naale Baa—the ghostly legend that sent shivers down spines and scrawled its eerie message across doorsteps: Come tomorrow.

THE SPIRIT THAT KNOCKS AT MIDNIGHT

The legend of Naale Baa —or "Come Tomorrow"— is said to have originated in rural Karnataka before creeping into the old neighbourhoods of Bengaluru. The says a vengeful spirit, often described as a bride who died tragically on her wedding day, wanders the streets at night. Her eerie trick? She could mimic the voice of a loved one, luring unsuspecting victims to open their doors—only to vanish forever.

"My mother would warn us not to answer the door at night," recalls Lakshmi Rao, a retired schoolteacher from Jayanagar. "We would hear knocks and shivers would run down our spines. It might have been the wind or a stray animal, but nobody dared check."

The tale gained such traction that it became common to see Naale Baa scrawled in white chalk on doors and compound walls. The belief was simple: the spirit, upon seeing the words, would postpone her visit indefinitely.

A STORY THAT EVOLVED OVER TIME

But Naale Baa wasn't always a bridal ghost. Veteran writer and professor PV Nanjaraj Urs traces its origins back to the 1950s. "It started as a way to keep children indoors. Back then, labourers and factory workers returned home late, and parents needed a way to control their children. They warned of Kavala Taai (a woman who would ask for leftover food), as a gypsy woman who kidnapped children who played outside after dark. When a few smart children started questioning how to escape her, parents began writing Naale Baa on doors to reassure them."

As the legend spread, its form changed. Some said it was a witch who caused people to die by vomiting blood. Others claimed the spirit targeted the men of the house, bringing misfortune to entire families.

Senior journalist MG Srinivas, who has documented urban legends, remembers the panic it created. "In the 90s, before Bengaluru was the tech City we know today, there was a different kind of joy in the air, the good old days. Electricity cuts were frequent, and in the flickering candlelight, the fear of the unknown was very real."

A WHISPER OF THE PAST, FADING BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Though modernisation dulled its grip, the ghostly bride still lingers. Some residents of old Bengaluru still remember seeing those words on doors, now long washed away. "The writings faded, but the story didn't," said Kavitha Rai, poet and professor at Karnataka State Open University. "It's a part of our cultural folklore, reminding us how stories bring communities together, even if through fear."

For some, it remains a cherished childhood memory. "We would gather around and share stories, daring each other to step outside," laughs HK Sharath, a Kannada writer. "The bravest among us would sneak up to a neighbour's door, knock loudly, and run away. The screams that followed were the highlight of our nights!"

Though the City has grown, the tale of Naale Baa lingers, whispered in dim corridors and retold on stormy nights. The next time you hear an unexpected knock past midnight, you might just hesitate. After all, some legends never die. —*Salar News*

GARDEN CITY NOSTALGIA

PAST & PRESENT

Students try out a driving simulator and explore exhibits at the Traffic Police Museum and Experience Centre in Bengaluru; a black and white photograph displayed at the museum shows a vehicle owner getting the upper half of his car's headlights painted black under the supervision of a traffic policeman, an old practice used to reduce glare from high beams ***PHOTOS: SALAR***

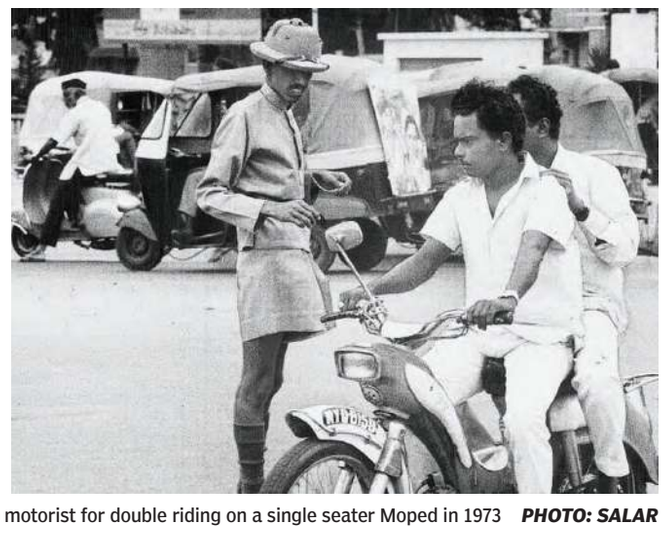
A walk through Bengaluru's traffic time machine

HAMEED ASHRAF
BENGALURU, 10 MAY

Nestled inside Bengaluru's bustling Traffic Management Centre (TMC) on Infantry Road is a unique civic destination — India's first Traffic Police Museum and Experience Centre. Opened to the public on 30 January, 2025, it offers a fascinating look at the city's traffic history through the lenses of nostalgia, technology and civic awareness.

Conceptualised by senior Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) officials including Joint Commissioner (Traffic) MN Anucheth, the museum aims to serve both as a historical archive and an interactive learning space for students and citizens. Open daily from 10 am to 5pm, the centre offers an immersive timeline of how traffic policing has evolved in Bengaluru.

Step inside and visitors are transported to an earlier era, when "Bangalore Town" had constables in khaki shorts managing sparse vehicular flow.



A traffic cop on duty at Bengaluru's Cubbon Park in 1963; another officer halts a motorist for double riding on a single seater Moped in 1973 ***PHOTO: SALAR***

The timeline traces the roots of traffic regulation from the Mysore Traffic Act of 1908, followed by the official formation of the traffic department in 1930 under Inspector General FA Hamilton, with just 70 personnel at Ulsoor Gate.

Exhibits include black-and-white photos of the City's first traffic signal in 1963, uniforms modelled after British colonial styles, and rare snapshots of historical moments such as Queen Elizabeth II's 1961 visit and Indira Gandhi's 1976 roadshow. A 1973 image captures a constable reprimanding two men riding double on a single-seat moped — a familiar violation even till date.

The museum also documents the department's technological leap: from HAL-developed doppler radars in 1976 to the e-challan era powered by BlackBerry devices in the 2000s and now AI-enabled systems. Visitors can interact with Pragnya, a prototype AI robot that answers questions about City roads. The Bengaluru Adaptive Traffic Control System (BATCS) also features, demonstrating how signals are adjusted in real time for smoother flow.

Interactive exhibits make the museum more engaging. An automated bilingual guide narrates key milestones, while a driving simulator helps children learn road rules in a gamified format. A screen that recognises traffic hand signals encourages kids to imitate police gestures.

The museum also pays tribute to heroic officers, including "Meese" Thimmaiah, who died saving a woman and her child near the then-GPO circle in 1995 — now named Police Thimmaiah Circle.

"This isn't just a collection of photos or machines," said Constable Ravi Kumar, guiding a group of schoolchildren. "It's how Bengaluru grew, from bullock carts to AI."

For older visitors, the museum offers a nostalgic look at a changing City; for the young, it's a hands-on civic classroom. Either way, it leaves every Bengalurean with a deeper respect for the guardians of the City's roads, past and present. —*Salar News*

- Interactive exhibits make the museum more engaging. An automated bilingual guide narrates key milestones, while a driving simulator helps children learn road rules.

Traffic cop Marichikaiah 'Meesey' Thimmaiah manning the traffic near the GPO in 1995.

On Saturday, an unidentified projectile was reported in Haryana's Sirsa, a massive crater appeared in Punjab's Gurdaspur, and missile remains along with shell fragments were found in Rajasthan's Barmer district. After a night filled with uncertainty and fear, residents discovered that the munitions had been fired by Pakistan

PHOTO: PTI

1 lakh villagers from J&K's border evacuate

People from Haryana, Himachal, Gujarat, J&K, Punjab and Rajasthan find remnants of munition in craters

SRINAGAR/UNA/ NURPUR/CHANDIGARH/ PHAGWARA 10 MAY

Residents of villages located near the Line of Control (LoC) in three districts of Kashmir began leaving their homes in droves. Nearly 1.1 lakh people living along the LoC in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts moved to safer places as dozens of houses and government buildings were hit by Pakistani shells.

"It is not easy to leave behind a place where you have spent all your life," Irshad Ahmad Khwaja, a resident of a border village, said.

More than half of the evacuations have been carried out in Kupwara district's Karnah and Machhil sectors, followed by Uri in Baramulla and some areas of Bandipora. Authorities have made arrangements for the people at various makeshift shelters.

Meanwhile, people awoke to the sound of explosions, finding remnants of drones and missiles in various states.

People woke up to explosion-like sounds in Punjab's Pathankot and Jalandhar districts, while air sirens rang out in Hoshiarpur, Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ferozepur districts.

Locals heard an explosion at 2.40am from the fields of Major Singh at Khalyan village towards Sahni. The impact of the created a crater about 7-8 feet deep and 12-14 feet wide.

Debris of unidentified objects were found at some places at Beas in Amritsar, Jalandhar and Tarn Taran districts. An unidentified object fell in a field between Khalyan and Sahni villages in Phagwara district.

In Himachal Pradesh, a suspicious metal object resembling parts of a missile was found at Behad village in Una district. Two other suspicious objects resembling remains of a drone and a missile were found at two places in the in Kangra district, they said.

Similar debris was recovered from Rajasthan's Barmer.

In Haryana's Sirsa locals heard blast-like sounds.

Similarly, a missile-like object landed deep inside the Dal Lake in Srinagar after loud explosions rocked the city on Saturday. *—PTI*

Residents living along the LoC are being moved to safer areas and shelter camps after heavy cross-border shelling and attempted drone and missile attacks by Pakistan, in the Rajouri-Poonch

PHOTO: ANI

Omar announces Rs 10L aid for LoC firing victims

JAMMU, 10 MAY

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh each for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in Pakistani shelling in the Union Territory. An additional district development commissioner and 19 villagers were killed in Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu and Baramulla sectors in the past four days after Indian armed forces struck nine terrorist infrastructure targets across the border.

"Deeply pained by the loss of innocent lives due to recent shelling from Pakistan. My Government is taking every possible measure to minimise the hardship of our people," Abdullah said on X. *—PTI*

Pak Kamikaze drones neutralised along international border

AMRITSAR, 10 MAY

Indian Army's Air Defence (AAD) units on Saturday morning shot down multiple Kamikaze drones launched by Pakistan after they crossed the international border in Punjab's Amritsar. The drones, identified as Byker YIHA III models, were headed toward densely populated civilian areas. The drones were swiftly detected and destroyed.

Residents panic as blasts rock Srinagar early in the morning

SRINAGAR, 10 MAY

Srinagar was rocked by massive blasts hours after similar explosions shook it in the early hours of Saturday.

Two massive explosions were heard near the Srinagar airport around 11.45am, triggering panic among the people as electricity was snapped in the city and other parts of the valley.

Sirens were also heard in some areas.

Kerala students homeward bound from border districts

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ NEW DELHI, 10 May

Around 75 students from Kerala studying in universities in some border states are on their way back home. The students from various central and state universities in Jammu, Rajasthan, Punjab and other places reached Kerala House in Delhi on 9 May and early Saturday morning. The students will reach Kerala via various flights and trains. Many others were unable to return as they did not get air or rail tickets.

Around 240 students from Kerala are stranded in Punjab and Kashmir. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assured of assistance in the matter. A 24x7 control room has been set up at Kerala House in New Delhi, which can be reached at -- 01123747079.

Op Sindoor killed 5 terrorists, including IC-814 mastermind

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The Indian strikes on in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir under Operation Sindoor on 7 May neutralised five most wanted terrorists, including the mastermind of IC-814 hijacking in 1999, officials said Saturday.

Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, listed at number 21 in the most wanted list of terrorists prepared by the Union Home Ministry, is the brother-in-law of Maulana Masood Azhar, the dreaded chief of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

He was the mastermind of the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in which Masood Azhar was released with two terrorists in exchange for the passengers and crew members of the flight that was forced to Afghanistan.

Another brother-in-law of Masood Azhar, Hafiz Muhammed Jameel, in-charge of Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, a massive training centre for JeM terrorists, was also killed in the strike, they said. Jameel was actively involved in the radical indoctrination of youth and fundraising for the JeM.

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Mudassar Khadian Khas, who went by the alias Mudassar and Abu Jundal and was in-charge of Markaz Taiba, Muridke, was killed in the strike.

His funeral prayer was led by the Pakistan Army, according to videos on social media.

Another LeT terrorist killed was, Khalid alias Abu Akasha was involved in multiple terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, besides weapons smuggling from Afghanistan.

Mohammad Hassan Khan, son of the commander of JeM in PoK, Mufti Asghar Khan Kashmiri, was also eliminated in the strike. He coordinated terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, they said. *—PTI*

The funeral service for Qari Abdul Malik, Khalid, and Mudassir was led by Hafiz Abdul Rauf, a known Jamaat al-Dawah terrorist

PHOTO: X@HIM12

Omar welcomes ceasefire; Oppn questions US role

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday welcomed the ceasefire between India and Pakistan saying it was better late than never.

"I welcome from the depths of my heart the announcement made by Government of India spokesperson about restoration of ceasefire between India and Pakistan," Abdullah told reporters at his residence.

Similarly, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the ceasefire, and said both the countries should find ways to establish permanent peace.

"This is a good news for the people of J&K, who have been suffering," Mufti said.

Opposition parties meanwhile questioned the "US-brokered" ceasefire and demanded that the government call a special Parliament session.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Prime Minister should chair an all-party meeting in view of the "unprecedented announcements from Washington DC".

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav also demanded that Modi convene a special session of Parliament.

"US President Donald Trump announcing a ceasefire unsettles me," said RJD's Manoj Jha.

Left parties the CPI and the CPI(M) welcomed the ceasefire but said the US's role in the process "raised certain questions".

Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah speaks to the media, after India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire, in Jammu, on Saturday

PHOTO: PTI

"We believe India and Pakistan have the maturity to address their issues bilaterally, without interference by Donald Trump," CPI general secretary D Raja said.

"It is disquieting that the US mediated the ceasefire. Hope we don't entertain any internationalisation of the Kashmir issue," CPI(M) leader John Brittas said. *—PTI*

States on high alert despite ceasefire announcement

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Prior to the ceasefire announcement, states across the country remained on high alert.

The Gujarat government suspended fishing activities in the Arabian Sea.

Odisha police ensured unprecedented security cover along the coastline and around vital installations in the state.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma held an all-party meeting about the state government's preparedness, as high alert was issued in the border districts Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and Sri Ganganagar amid threats of potential strikes by Pakistan.

Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi directed the departments to prepare plans to enable swift action when required, while the district administration in Punjab's Amritsar banned the use of drones. *—PTI*

'DID NOT ATTACK GURDWARA'

Govt flags rampant misinfo by Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The government on Saturday debunked claims that India had launched a drone attack on the Nankana Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan.

The Press Information Bureau Fact Check Unit said that viral video claiming India launched a drone attack on the gurdwara, was circulated to create communal hatred.

Guru Nanak's birthplace, Nankana Sahib is a revered shrine and pilgrimage site for Sikhs.

The government also dismissed as "fake" certain social media posts claiming that an Indian pilot ejected from his fighter aircraft in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and that a woman Air Force pilot was captured in Pakistan.

It also debunked claims of India's power grid being rendered dysfunctional in a cyberattack, destruction of Indian Army posts and temporary closure of the Mumbai-Delhi airline route.

India debunked claims it launched a drone attack on the Nankana Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan

PHOTO: PTI

The Airports Authority of India has temporarily closed 25 segments of Air Traffic Service routes within the Delhi and Mumbai Flight Information Regions due to operational reasons.

Moreover, a 27 April Instagram video showing Indian soldiers crying actually involved students of a private defence coaching centre celebrating their selection in the Army.

"The video depicts students from a private defence coaching institute celebrating their selection into the Indian Army. The youth in the video reportedly became emotional with joy upon receiving news of their successful recruitment," it said.

The PIB Fact Check Unit also said that claims on social media about destruction of Indian army posts were false and that a video shared in this regard dated back to 2020.

The government also debunked reports in a section of foreign media about 10 explosions around the airport in Srinagar on Friday, as well as separate claims of blasts near the Jaipur airport. *—PTI*

M'rashtra takes down 5,000 posts

Mumbai, 10 May

Maharashtra Cyber removed 5,000 posts from social media platforms containing fake news and misinformation about the military conflict between India and Pakistan, an official said on Saturday. The cybercrime detection agency also issued an advisory on the circulation of fake news and misinformation related to the military conflict, the official said. Maharashtra Cyber strongly advised citizens to exercise restraint and discernment while consuming and sharing information, particularly about matters of national importance. *—PTI*

Govt tells media not to use sirens

New Delhi, 10 May

The government on Saturday advised all media channels to refrain from using civil defence air raid sirens sounds in their programmes other than community awareness drive. In an advisory, the Directorate General Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards said exercising the powers conferred under the Civil Defence Act, 1968, all media channels were requested to refrain from using civil defence air raids sirens sounds in their programmes other than for educating the community. It said that the routine use of sirens may likely to reduce the sensitivity of civilians towards the air raids sirens and civilians may misunderstood it as routine matter, used by the media channels, during the actual air raids. *—PTI*

India and Russia strengthen military ties

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth met with Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin amid ongoing celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. During his visit to Moscow from 8-9 May, Seth expressed gratitude to Russia for its backing of India in combating "state-sponsored cross-border terrorism." The two discussed enhancing military and technical cooperation.

Seth participated in a grand military parade in Red Square, attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin. He laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier — a gesture underscoring the longstanding strategic partnership between the countries. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

IMD: Southwest monsoon to arrive early in Kerala

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced that the southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala on 27 May, ahead of the typical arrival date of 1 June. If this prediction holds true, it will mark the earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it began on 23 May. The monsoon's arrival in Kerala is officially recognized as the start of the main rain-bearing system's progression across India, which usually covers the entire country by 8 July. The southwest monsoon is very likely to advance into South Andaman Sea, some parts of Southeast Bay of Bengal and Nicobar Islands around 13th May. The IMD also forecast thunderstorms with gusty winds up to the speeds of 60 kmph in parts of Andhra Pradesh from 10 to 14 May *—PTI*

Heatwaves in South Bengal, rain in North: IMD

KOLKATA, 10 MAY

Some southern districts of West Bengal are likely to experience heatwave conditions while heavy rainfall and thunderstorms may occur in the northern districts of Bengal from Saturday, the IMD said. Day temperatures are expected to be above normal by three to five notches over south Bengal. Heatwave conditions, with maximum temperature being above 40 degrees Celsius and above normal by five notches, are likely over West Bardhaman, Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram and West Midnapore districts, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. North Bengal districts of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Coochbehar are likely to receive heavy rainfall, while thunderstorms may occur in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, the IMD said. *—PTI*

Assam unveils first piped gas connections

GUWAHATI, 10 MAY

Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the state's first piped cooking gas connections in Guwahati, serving 101 households. In a ceremony on Saturday, Sarma also launched a CNG station in Silchar and initiated plans for piped gas services in Baihata Chariali, Hajo, Sualkuchi, and Rangiya, located near Guwahati. The project is led by Purba Bharati Gas Pvt Ltd, a collaboration among Assam Gas Company Ltd, Oil India Ltd, and GAIL Gas Ltd. Sarma noted that approximately 30,000 households have registered for the service, with infrastructure already available for a future expansion. The CM described the launch of CNG stations as a significant milestone for the state. *—PTI*

T'gana CM gives Rs 1 cr ex gratia for slain soldiers

HYDERABAD, 10 MAY

Telangana's Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced a special ex gratia payment of Rs 1 crore to the families of three Greyhounds commandos killed by Maoist landmines in Mulugu district. A late-night statement from the Chief Minister's Office confirmed that the affected families will also receive Rs 80 lakh under the "Security Scheme" and a 300-square-yard house site. Additionally, an eligible family member will be offered a government job. The commandos lost their lives while conducting operations to defuse explosives near Wazeedu police station on 8 May. Police units from both Mulugu and Greyhounds were engaged in the dangerous task at approximately 6.00am when the tragic incident occurred. *—PTI*

5 times more died of Covid than reported

At least 2 million more people died in 2021 compared to 2022 according to latest govt data

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The number of total deaths registered in 2021 was 10.2 million (1.2 crore), about 2 million (2 lakh) more than 2020 – an increase of nearly 23 per cent, sources said, referring to the latest CRS data. This sharply contrasts the Medically Certified Cause of Deaths-2021 (MCCD), which said 60,000 and 410,000 died due to Covid-19 in India in 2020 and 2021, respectively, thus totalling to 570,000, according to The Wire.

The previous years had seen an annual increment of total deaths, compared to the last year, ranging between 1.3 per cent in 2016 to 9.93 per cent in 2019, with the average increase over three preceding years (2016 to 2019) estimated at 6.42 per cent per annum, according to Civil Registration System (CRS) data.

The sharp rise indicates that there was a massive underreporting of Covid-19 related deaths. The CRS figure would, therefore, suggest that India's official Covid-19 death figures were an undercount by at least five times.

The 26 per cent of deaths in 2021, as compared to the previous year, indicates that there was a massive underreporting of Covid-19 related deaths *PHOTO: PTI*

Earlier, a WHO report released in 2022 put the number of "excess" deaths in India in 2020 and 2021 at about 47 lakh, almost 10 times the official Indian figure of 4.8 lakh for those two years.

Government sources however, said that the sharp increase could be attributed to other factors, such as including a larger population cohort,

- Previous years had seen an annual increment of total deaths, compared to the last year, ranging between 1.3 per cent in 2016 to 9.93 per cent in 2019

maturing reporting processes and increased awareness of the need for registration, leading to higher registration levels.

Another important dataset the government released is the Sample Registration Bulletin (SRS). The SRS provides estimates of death rates, as against the actual number of deaths registered in official records (which are reported in CRS). SRS indicators are arrived at by a survey conducted by government officials.

The death rate in 2020 was 6 per 1,000 thousand people. In 2021, it climbed to 7.5 per 1,000. In absolute numbers this a significant increase.

8.11 million people died in India in 2020. This figure rose to 10.43 million in 2021 – a 27 per cent increase. In other words, nearly 2 million (20 lakh) more people died in 2021 as compared to 2020.

India registered the highest death rate (number of deaths per 1000 population) in 2021 since 2012. In 2021, it stood at 7.5. It was the same in 2012 and had been consistently declining until 2021.

Interestingly, death registration rate, which is captured for all age groups, went up, the infant mortality rate declined, a trend not previously visible.

Covid-19 is believed to have caused a higher mortality among adults as compared to children, further indicating that there was a significant undercounting of the virus-related deaths.

The sharp rise in deaths could also be attributed to other disruptions caused by the pandemic, such as the lockdown, which left several migrants, and difficulties in accessing medical care. In other words, the data not only highlights undercounting, but also issues the government's response. *—PTI with agencies*

ONLY 4K RESOLVED

6.5L calls on SC/ST atrocities helpline since 2021

NEW DELHI, 9 MAY

Over 6.5 lakh calls have been received by the National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA) regarding the atrocities against SCs and STs since the launch of the helpline in December 2021, with nearly half of the total calls originating from Uttar Pradesh, official data showed. 7,135 grievances were registered, and 4,314 resolved.

These complaints range from incidents of assault, social boycotts, caste-based abuse, land grabbing and denial of access to public spaces to allegations of police inaction in atrocity cases.

Uttar Pradesh alone accounted for 3,33,516 calls, of which 1,825 were grievances registered as grievances and 1,515 resolved, according to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Bihar followed with 58,112 calls, with 718 grievances registered and 707 resolved. Rajasthan reported 38,570 calls and 750 complaints, with 506 redressed.

Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Haryana and Karnataka also saw significant call volumes with varying levels of grievance registration and redress.

In contrast, Haryana showed a high resolution rate, resolving 379 of the 392 complaints it received. *—PTI*

5, including 3 minors held for Ranchi gangrape

RANCHI, 10 MAY

A young girl was reportedly gangraped in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand, leading to the arrest of five suspects, including three minors, according to police sources on Saturday.

The alleged attack occurred around 11pm on 7 May in the Chanho Police Station area, roughly 45km from Ranchi city, as detailed in a police statement.

The victim filed a complaint claiming that her minor boyfriend, accompanied by four of his friends, took her on a motorcycle to an isolated location where they assaulted her.

A police team apprehended all five individuals. Two of the suspects have been remanded to jail, while the three minors have been placed in a juvenile correctional facility. *—PTI*

India sees improvement in child health indicators

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

India witnessed a significant improvement in key maternal and child health indicators between 2014 and 2021, according to a Health Ministry statement.

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by 37 points from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 93 in 2019-21, the Ministry said, citing the Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2021 released by the Registrar General of India (RGI) on Wednesday.

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has dropped from 39 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2021.

The Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) has declined from 26 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 19 per 1000 live births in 2021. Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) has also improved, dropping from 45 in 2014 to 31 per 1000 live births in 2021.

The Sex Ratio at Birth also improved between 2014 and 2031, getting better from 899 to 913, respectively. Total Fertility Rate is consistent at 2.0 in 2021, which is a notable progress from 2.3 in 2014.

Infant Mortality Rate dropped from 39 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2021 *PHOTO: META AI*

Eight states attained the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of MMR (less than or equal to 70 by 2030): Kerala (20), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (45), Andhra Pradesh (46), Tamil Nadu (49), Jharkhand (51), Gujarat (53), and Karnataka (63).

12 states and UT attained SDG target of U5MR (less than 25 by 2030): Kerala (8), Delhi (14), Tamil Nadu (14), Jammu & Kashmir (16), Maharashtra (16), West Bengal (20), Karnataka (21), Punjab (22), Telangana (22), Himachal Pradesh (23), Andhra Pradesh (24) and Gujarat (24). *—PTI*

DRDO developing humanoid robot

PUNE, MAY 10

Scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are working on a humanoid robot that can be part of frontline military mission.

The Research and Development Establishment (Engineers), a key lab under DRDO, is developing a machine to carry out complex tasks on direct human command, aimed at reducing troop exposure in high-risk environments.

The robot, with has been in the making for four years, will be operational by 2027.

It was showcased at the National Workshop on Advanced Legged Robotics held in Pune.

The system will operate seamlessly day or night, indoors or outdoors, and incorporate proprioceptive and exteroceptive sensors, data fusion capabilities, tactical sensing and audio-visual perception.

Scientists explained that the humanoid's upper body would feature lightweight arms with a spherical revolute joint configuration, offering 24 degrees of freedom — seven in each arm, four in the gripper and two in the head.

The robot will be able to perform complex autonomous tasks with closed-loop gripping and manipulate objects by turning, pushing, pulling, sliding doors, opening valves, handling hazardous materials and overcoming obstacles, especially in high-risk environments.

It will also have map generation, navigation, and path planning allowing it to make autonomous decisions. *—PTI*

Robo surgery makes debut in N India

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

A 37-year-old woman has successfully undergone a less-invasive robotic oncological surgery at a Delhi hospital that claimed it to be the first in north India.

The patient was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer in 2017. Her BRCA-positive status further elevated the risk of recurrence.

She was admitted to the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital for a bilateral breast surgery, involving a combination of conventional and robotic-assisted techniques.

She had undergone chemotherapy, multiple lumpectomies, radiotherapy and a salpingo-oophorectomy.

The surgical team utilised the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System to perform a nipple-sparing mastectomy on the right breast, while the left breast, underwent conventional mastectomy and reconstruction, using a musculo-cutaneous flap and implant.

The 37-year old patient was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer *PHOTO: PIXABAY*

The robotic approach enabled enhanced precision and control in excision of cancerous tissues, minimising surgical trauma and preserving the surrounding tissues.

The patient tolerated the surgey well, made a swift recovery and was discharged in a stable condition, the statement said.

Commenting on the success of the procedure, Arun Prasad, the hospital's senior consultant-gastrointestinal said that the introduction of robotic breast surgery in north India marks a transformative step forward in the field of surgical oncology. *—PTI*

SOUNDS OF WAR

Border residents anxious after two sleepless nights

JAMMU/JAIPUR, 10 MAY

"We woke up to sound of sirens blaring... moments later, a massive blast rocked our house," recalled a resident of Rehari Colony in Jammu city. It was among the worst-hit in the region by intense mortar shelling and drone strikes by Pakistan early Saturday.

The fresh wave of drone attacks by Pakistan filled residents of border areas with anxiety.

Among the worst-hit was the densely populated Rehari Colony, where a bomb tore through the home of Gulshan Dutta, leaving the structure and several nearby vehicles in ruins.

One person was injured, but Dutta's family narrowly escaped.

"We stepped out onto the balcony after waking up to the sound of sirens and rushed to the ground floor. Moments later, a massive blast rocked our house," Dutta's wife recalled.

"The sirens saved our lives," she said. "If we hadn't moved, we would have been dead."

Around 5:15am, Dutta heard the blast that shook his home to its foundation. "Our entire house trembled. We thought it was the end."

Omkar Singh, a resident of Jainpur said, "we were up all night. Then came the blasts. There is fear now... people feel unsafe even in their homes."

Shakuntala Devi from Hazuribagh echoed the concern. "They are targeting civilians."

Similarly, Western Rajasthan experienced a complete blackout and sirens were sounded multiple times, particularly in Barmer.

"We have not slept for two nights," Jalam Singh a resident of Jaisalmer, said.

Retired Forest Ranger Jaithmal Singh, however, observed that unlike the fear felt during the 1971 war, there is no widespread panic today.

"The situation was far more uncertain back then and people were deeply anxious." *—PTI*

Destruction at a house after the cross border shelling by Pakistan, in Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

PHOTO: X

Mexico sues Google over Gulf of Mexico name change

MEXICO CITY, 9 MAY

Mexico has sued tech giant Google over its labelling of the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America, a change made by US President Donald Trump via executive order, Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum said Friday. Mexico's Foreign Relations ministry had previously sent letters to Google asking it to not label Mexican territorial waters as the Gulf of America. Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The body of water has shared borders between the United States and Mexico. Trump's order only carries authority within the US, Mexico, as well as other countries and international bodies, do not have to recognize the name change. —*PTI*

US to accept white South African refugees

WASHINGTON, 10 MAY

The Trump administration will welcome more than two dozen white South Africans to US as refugees on Monday as part of much larger-scale relocation effort" White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller told reporters. US has suspended most refugee resettlement operations but the Trump administration has taken up US refugee resettlement of White Afrikaners in South Africa due to what it perceives 'are victims of unjust racial discrimination'. The South African foreign ministry said denied the allegations saying "It is most regrettable that it appears that the resettlement of South Africans to the United States under the guise of being refugees' is entirely politically motivated and designed to question South Africa's constitutional democracy. —*PTI*

Failed Soviet space lander crashes after 53 years

CAPE CANAVERAL, 10 MAY

A Soviet-era spacecraft plunged to Earth on Saturday, more than a half-century after its failed launch to Venus. The European Union Space Surveillance and Tracking confirmed its uncontrolled re-entry, although hpw much of it survived the descent is not clear. Experts the chances of anyone getting clobbered by spacecraft debris were exceedingly low, scientists said. Launched in 1972 by the Soviet Union, the spacecraft known as Kosmos 482 was part of a series of missions bound for Venus. But this one never made it out of orbit around Earth, stranded there by a rocket malfunction. —*PTI*

Dubai conclave to promote India-UAE trade partnerships

DUBAI, 10 MAY

Dubai will host the inaugural India-UAE: Partners in Progress Conclave on 15 May, which aims to unite policymakers and business leaders from both countries. Organised by the India Today Group and the UAE India Business Council (UIBC-UC), the conclave follows the recent visit of Dubai's Crown Prince to India, which resulted in multiple agreements, including a key memorandum of understanding between UAE-India Friendship Hospital and Dubai Health. The event promises to catalyse cooperation in trade diversification, energy transition, tourism, technology, startup innovation, and the Indo-UAE economic corridor. Key figures such as Aroon Purie, Chairman of the India Today Group, and UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan, Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir and former Minister Rajeev Chandrashekhar, are also scheduled to attend as part of the UIBC-UC's mission to enhance economic collaboration—*PTI*

US, China begin high-stakes tariff talks

Trump suggests lowering tariffs down to 80 per cent ahead of talks in Geneva

GENEVA, 10 MAY

PHOTO: FREEPIK

The US treasury secretary and America's top trade negotiator has started talks with high-ranking Chinese officials in Switzerland on Saturday to de-escalate a dispute that threatens to cut off trade between the world's two biggest economies and to damage global commerce.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer started the first round of talks in Geneva with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Prospects for a major breakthrough appear dim. But there is hope that the two countries will scale back the massive taxes – tariffs – they've slapped on each other's goods, a move that would relieve world financial markets and companies on both sides of the Pacific Ocean that depend on US-China trade.

US President Donald Trump last month raised U.S. tariffs on China to a combined 145%, and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125% levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the countries' boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last year topped $660 billion.

Even before the talks began, Trump suggested Friday that the US could lower its tariffs on China, saying in a Truth Social post that " 80% Tariff seems right! Up to Scott.?

Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center, noted it will be the first time He and Bessent have talked. And she doubts the Geneva meeting will produce any substantive results.

"The best scenario is for the two sides to agree to de-escalate on the ... tariffs at the same time," she said, adding even a small reduction would send a positive signal. "It cannot just be words."

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump's tariff war, has resulted the ties between the two countries hitting a rock bottom. His tariffs on China include a 20% charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States. The remaining 125% involve a dispute that dates back to Trump's first term and comes atop tariffs he levied on China back then, which means the total tariffs on some Chinese goods can exceed the 145%. Trump is also agitated by America's massive trade deficit with China, which came to $263 billion last year. —*PTI*

Columbia suspends 65 students over Palestine protests

NEW YORK, 10 MAY

Columbia University has suspended dozens of students and barred alums and others who participated in a pro-Palestinian demonstration inside the school's main library earlier this week, a school spokesperson said Friday.

The Ivy League institution in Manhattan placed more than 65 students on interim suspension and barred 33 others, including those from affiliated institutions from setting foot on campus.

Roughly 80 people were arrested after the Wednesday evening demonstration at the university's Butler Library. Most face trespassing charges, though some may also face disorderly conduct, New York city police have said.

The mask-clad protesters pushed their way past campus security officers and hung Palestinian flags and other banners on bookshelves. Some protesters scrawled phrases on library furniture and picture frames, including "Columbia will burn."

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said the visa status protesters will be reviewed for possible deportation. – *PTI*

15 states sue Trump over oil gas policy

Washington, 10 May

A coalition of 15 states is suing over President Donald Trump's efforts to fast-track energy-related projects, saying the administration is bypassing environmental protection laws and threatening endangered species, critical habitat and cultural resources. Trump issued an executive order declaring a "national energy emergency" urging oil and gas expansion bypassing federal laws, . —*PTI*

Court halts federal agencies' furloughs

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 MAY

A California Court ordered a halt on the Trump administration's dramatic downsizing of the federal workforce on Friday. The order, expiring in 14 days, does not require departments to rehire people. 75,000 federal employees took deferred resignation and thousands of probationary workers have already been let go. The Government argued that the order provided only general principles to follow while deciding. —*PTI*

Mayor of Newark released after arrest

NEWARK, 10 MAY

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka was released after spending several hours in custody following his arrest at a new federal immigration detention centre he has been protesting against. Baraka was accused of trespassing the Delaney Hall facility. The arrest came after Baraka attempted to join 3 Congressiona delegation, to enter the facility.The delegation went there unannounced as they planned to inspect it. —*PTI*

One of the billboards put up in New York City by the World Baloch Organisation highlights rights abuses in the southwestern Pakistani province of Balochistan **PHOTO: WORLD BALOCH ORGANISATION**

Baloch movement condemns Pak in billboard campaign

WASHINGTON DC, 10 MAY

The Baloch National Movement (BNM) has launched a mobile billboard campaign in Washington, DC, condemning the recent arrests and alleged custodial torture of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders in Pakistan. In a post on X, BNM revealed that the campaign, which featured a truck displaying messages highlighting human rights violations in Balochistan, was strategically driven near the Pakistani Embassy to garner international attention.

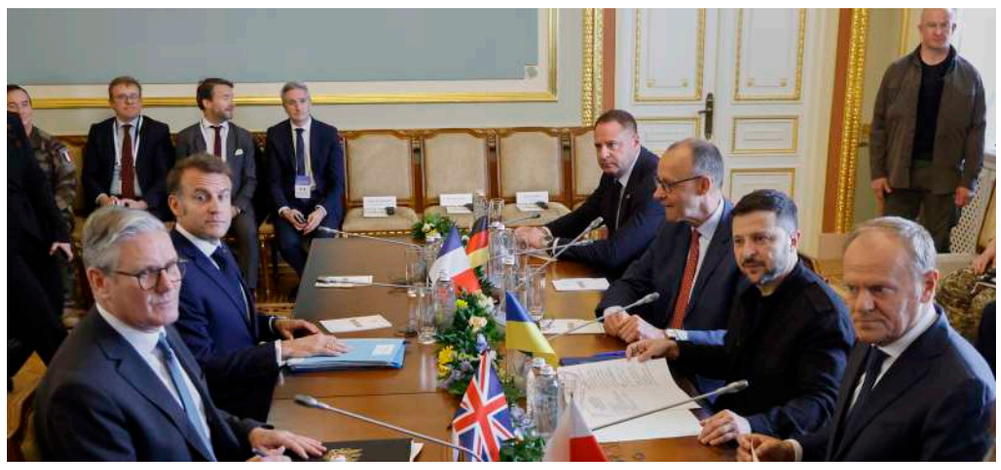
On X, BNM stated: "BNM condemns these arrests and the treatment of BYC leaders in custody. BNM will continue to raise its voice against these actions on every platform. Without the independence of Balochistan, these violations cannot be stopped. The international community must support the Baloch nation in their struggle for freedom"

Meanwhile, the Baloch National Movement (BNM) has also announced an awareness campaign in the cities of Arnhem and Maastricht, Netherlands, to spotlight the ongoing state-sponsored violence and severe human rights abuses in Balochistan. Prominent Baloch activist Mahrang Baloch's arrest, alongside other activists, has triggered widespread protests throughout Balochistan and among the Baloch diaspora. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) has reported a troubling increase in enforced disappearances in the region and extrajudicial killings which have surged in recent months. - ANI

Meanwhile in Peshawar, at least nine security personnel were killed and five injured while fighting terrorists after an attack on their check post in northwest Pakistan, a media report said Saturday. Terrorists attacked Danda Check post on Friday in Shakai tehsil of South Waziristan district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan, Urdu-language Daily Mashriq said. However, there is no official word about the attack from the military's media wing. —*Agencies*

Ukraine, EU push for ceasefire

KYIV, 10 MAY



UK PM Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, Poland PM Donald Tusk, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz meet at the Mariinskyi Palace in Kyiv on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

Ukraine and its allies are ready for a "full, unconditional ceasefire" with Russia for at least 30 days starting on Monday, Ukrainian FM Andrii Sybiha said Saturday.

His remarks came as the leaders of four major European countries visited Kyiv to express their solidarity to Ukraine amidst Victory Day celebrations in Russia. It coincided with the last day of a unilateral three-day ceasefire declared by Russia that Ukraine says the Kremlin's forces have repeatedly violated.

Russia hasn't agreed to the United States proposed an immediate, limited 30-day truce which Ukraine accepted, citing unreasonable terms.

The leaders of France, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom arrived together at the train station in Kyiv, and met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy shortly after to join a ceremony at Kyiv's Independence Square marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. They lit candles at a makeshift flag memorial for fallen Ukrainian soldiers and civilians slain since Russia's invasion.

The visit marked the first time the leaders of the four countries have travelled together to Ukraine, while Friedrich Merz is making his first visit to Ukraine as Germany's new chancellor.

"We reiterate our backing for President Trump's calls for a peace deal and call on Russia to stop obstructing efforts to secure an enduring peace," the leaders said in a joint statement. "Alongside the US, we call on Russia to agree a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire to create the space for talks on a just and lasting peace."

Meanwhile, Russia has kept up attacks along the roughly 1,600-kilometre front line, including deadly strikes on residential areas with no obvious military targets.

On Saturday morning, local officials in Ukraine's northern Sumy region said Russian shelling over the past day killed three residents and wounded four more. Another civilian man died on the spot on Saturday as a Russian drone struck the southern city of Kherson, according to Ukranian officials. —*PTI*

S Korea's PPP ousts Kim Moon

SEOUL, 10 MAY

Kim Moon soo **PHOTO: X**

The conservative People Power Party (PPP) in South Korea has taken the extraordinary step of nullifying its presidential primary, replacing candidate Kim Moon soo with former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, just a week after Kim's nomination. This dramatic move highlights the party's internal discord as it prepares for the 3 June by-election.

Kim, a former labour minister under ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol, secured his candidacy on 3 May with 56.3 per cent of the primary vote. However, under pressure from Yoon loyalists, the party's leadership forced Kim to step aside in favour of Han, whom they believe has a better chance against liberal Democratic Party frontrunner Lee Jae-myung.

Han, who briefly served as acting president following Yoon's impeachment in December, announced his presidential bid after resigning on 2 May. He stressed the importance of unity, asserting, "If we unite, we can surely win," following failed talks with Kim to consolidate their candidacies.

In response, Kim condemned the actions as an "overnight political coup," and expressed his intent to pursue legal and political measures to regain his candidacy. The transition still needs approval from the party's national committee, due to meet on Sunday, the deadline for candidate registration. Lee's upcoming trials could also impact the political landscape. —*PTI*

Pro-EU rally in Romania ahead of elections

BUCHAREST, 10 MAY

Thousands gathered in Romania's capital today for a pro-European Union march, just one week ahead of a closely-watched presidential runoff set for 18 May. The election pits hard-right nationalist George Simion against pro-EU incumbent Nicuşor Dan, the city's mayor.

Marchers assembled outside the government building, waving blue and yellow EU flags and chanting slogans such as "We are in Europe" and "Bucharest is not Budapest," referring to Hungary's controversial Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Romania, joined the EU in 2007 but has faced political turmoil since a top court annulled last year's elections, following allegations of electoral violations and Russian interference. Simion emerged as the front-runner in the first electoral round, with Dan closely trailing.

Stefan Gheorghe,23 year old lawyer, expressed the need for EU support, stating, "We want to be like the best countries." Meanwhile, Simion's critics allege a pro-Russian stance, warning that his presidency may jeopardise Romania's EU and NATO commitments. Simion denied these claims, asserting, "We want to be a member of the European Union… we are here to stay.". —*PTI*

VISION OF PAPACY

Pope Leo XIV says AI is the main challenge for humanity

VATICAN CITY, 10 MAY

Newly elected Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost **PHOTO: PTI**

Pope Leo XIV laid out the vision of his papacy on Saturday, identifying artificial intelligence as one of the most critical matters facing humanity.

In his first formal audience, in the Vatican's synod hall Leo made clear he will follow in the modernising reforms of Pope Francis to make the Catholic Church inclusive, attentive to the faithful and a church that looks out for the "least and rejected." Citing Francis repeatedly, he told the cardinals who elected him that he was fully committed to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernised the church. He identified artificial intelligence as one of the main issues facing humanity, saying it poses challenges to defending human dignity, justice and labour.

Toward the end of his pontificate, Francis became increasingly vocal about the threats to humanity posed by AI and called for an international treaty to regulate it.

Leo made repeated references to Francis. He held up Francis' mission statement at the 2013 start of his pontificate, "The Joy of the Gospel," as something of his own marching orders, suggesting he intends to continue in Francis' priorities. —*PTI*

Weinstein's lawyers grill ex-model on sexual assault

NEW YORK, 10 MAY

Harvey Weinstein **PHOTO: X**

Harvey Weinstein's lawyers on Friday questioned an ex-model's allegation that he sexually assaulted her in her teens, portraying her as a wannabe actor who tried to leverage the former studio boss. The ex-model Kaja Sokola denied that sexual acts with Weinstein were consensual.

Cibella repeatedly asked whether she invited Weinstein up to a New York apartment when she was 19 where she had been staying in 2005. She denied it.The Polish psychotherapist said the Oscar-winning producer promised to help her fulfil her acting ambitions but instead "broke my dreams and self-esteem."

Weinstein faces a criminal sex act charge that he forced oral sex on Soloka in 2006. Prosecutors added the charge to the landmark #MeToo case in 2024, after an appeals court overturned Weinstein's 2020 conviction in similar cases.

Weinstein, 73, has pleaded not guilty and denies ever sexually assaulting anyone. Sokola sued Weinstein several years ago over the alleged 2002 incident and she ultimately received about USD 3.5 million in compensation.

However, her suits never mentioned the alleged 2006 assault. Cibella is expected to continue testifying next week in the case. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Birla Corporation Q4 net profit rises 32.7%

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

MP Birla Group firm Birla Corporation has reported a 32.7 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 256.6 crore for the March 2025 quarter, driven by higher sales volume and realisation from the cement business. It had posted a net profit of Rs 193.34 crore in the January-March period last year, according to a regulatory filing by Birla Corporation on Friday evening. Birla Corporation's revenue from operations rose 6 per cent to Rs 2,814.91 crore during the March quarter. It was Rs 2,654.44 crore a year ago. The total expenses of Birla Corporation inched up 3.4 per cent to Rs 2,496.57 crore in the March quarter. Birla Corporation's revenue from the Cement business increased 6.45 per cent to Rs 2,691.84 crore. *—PTI*

Nalanda to raise Rs 50 cr for preschool teachers

KOLKATA, 10 MAY

Nalanda Learning, a technology-based education provider, is planning to raise Rs 50 crore for imparting skills to pre-school teachers and caregivers, a company official said on Saturday. The company is in talks with high-net-worth individuals for raising money on a private placement basis, Chris Raybould, CEO of Nalanda Learning, said. The funds will be raised in the current financial year, he said. The pre-school years comprise the nursery, junior KG and senior KG classes, according to the NEP, which is in force from the academic year 2025, Raybould said, adding that these classes are considered as the first three years of foundation stage. Co-founder Tamal Mukherjee said that the training course will be of 30 hours duration and be imparted online. *—PTI*

Bank of India Q4 net profit jumps 82%

MUMBAI, 10 MAY

Treasury gains and recoveries from written-off accounts in the January-March period helped state-owned Bank of India to report an 82 per cent jump in its Q4 net profit at Rs 2,626 crore on Friday. The core net interest income grew by 2 per cent to Rs 6,063 crore for the three months, but the other income rose 96 per cent to Rs 3,428 crore. Recoveries from written-off accounts jumped 195 per cent to Rs 1,193 crore, while treasury gains were up 87 per cent at Rs 711 crore, which contributed to the jump in the other income. *—PTI*

Increased security at ports amid Indo-Pak tensions

Directorate General of Shipping issued the directive on 8 May

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The Directorate General of Shipping has increased maritime security for Indian ports, terminals, and Indian-flagged vessels to "MARSEC Level 2 or heightened security", considering the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan, a senior government official said.

The directive was issued on 8 May, the official added.

The Directorate General of Shipping functions under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

The International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), forms a crucial part of the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Convention. It was adopted in response to growing global concerns over maritime security, especially in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

One of the core components of the ISPS Code is the classification of security levels. These levels are designed to ensure that ships and port facilities can operate securely under varying threat environments.

Security Level 2 involves maintaining of appropriate additional protective security measures for a defined period of time, in response to a heightened risk.

This level is activated before an incident occurs, often as a precautionary measure based on credible information.

Level 2 requires escalation of standard procedures and close monitoring of threat updates.

Earlier this month, India banned ships bearing the flag of Pakistan from visiting any Indian port.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday conducted a comprehensive review of key maritime projects to ensure normal cargo movement. He directed officials to ensure that the business remains normal. *—PTI*

Earlier this month, India banned ships bearing the flag of Pakistan from visiting any Indian port *PHOTO: FREEPIK*

- One of the core components of the ISPS Code is the classification of security levels. These levels are designed to ensure that ships and port facilities can operate securely under varying threat environments.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

India must ensure fair terms in US trade deal: GTRI

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

India should take cues from the US-UK trade pact and exercise caution while negotiating an agreement with America to ensure that the deal is reciprocal, balanced, and not driven solely by political considerations, economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said on Saturday.

The limited trade deal announced between the US and UK on 8 May offers clues about the kind of trade arrangements Washington may pursue with other major partners, most notably India, GTRI said.

A closer look reveals that while the UK has made sweeping tariff concessions to America, the US has offered far less in return, it added.

"If the UK-US deal sets the template, India can expect growing US pressure to finalise a mini-deal of its own - focused on tariff cuts and key strategic commitments rather than a full free trade agreement (FTA) that may come much later," the think tank said.

It also cautioned that India may be asked to reduce tariffs on a basket of sensitive agricultural products, including soybeans, ethanol, apples, almonds, walnuts, raisins, avocados, spirits, many genetically modified (GM) products and meat and poultry.

Tariff concessions on automobiles are also expected, as India has already agreed to reduce duties on select UK vehicles from 100 per cent to 10 per cent under its recent agreement announced on 6 May.

The UK has agreed to cut tariffs on over 2,500 US products - ranging from olive oil to ethanol, signalling a deep market opening. *—PTI*

Adani deploys India's first hydrogen-powered truck

RAIPUR, 10 MAY

Adani Enterprises, flagship company of the Adani Group, flagged off what it claimed to be India's first hydrogen fuel cell truck to promote cleaner transportation.

As per a statement from the Adani Group, these hydrogen-powered trucks will gradually replace diesel vehicles used in the company's logistics operations. In collaboration with an Indian and international energy technology firm and a major auto manufacturer, Adani Group is developing hydrogen fuel cell battery-operated trucks for cargo transport.

Each truck, equipped with "smart technology" and three hydrogen tanks, can carry up to 40 tonnes of cargo over a 200kms range, the statement noted.

On Saturday, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the first truck in Raipur. It will be used to transport coal from the Gare Pelma III Block to the state's power plant.

"The launch of India's first hydrogen-powered truck in Chhattisgarh reflects the state's commitment to sustainability." said Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

The project is a joint effort between Adani Natural Resources and Adani New Industries Limited.

Since mining mainly uses diesel-powered machinery, switching to cleaner fuels will reduce emissions and noise. *—ANI*

Each truck can carry up to 40 tonnes of cargo over 200kms *PHOTO: ANI*

UNLAWFUL TRACKING

Google to pay Texas $1.4B to settle user data dispute

AUSTIN, 10 MAY

Google will pay USD 1.4 billion to Texas to settle claims the company collected users' data without permission, the state's Attorney General announced Friday.

Attorney General Ken Paxton described the settlement as sending a message to tech companies that he will not allow them to make money off of "selling away our rights and freedoms."

"In Texas, Big Tech is not above the law." Paxton said in a statement. "For years, Google secretly tracked people's movements, private searches, and even their voiceprints and facial geometry through their products and services. I fought back and won." The agreement settles several claims Texas made against the search giant in 2022 related to geolocation, incognito searches and biometric data. The state argued Google was "unlawfully tracking and collecting users' private data."

Google spokesperson José Castañeda said the agreement settles an array of "old claims," some of which relate to product policies the company has already changed. "We are pleased to put them behind us, and we will continue to build robust privacy controls into our services," he said.

The company also clarified that the settlement does not require any new product changes. *—PTI*

'Industries look forward to more FTA deals'

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Indian industries are looking forward to more free trade agreements (FTAs) because such trade pacts are the key enablers for participating in the global value chain, said Sanjiv Puri, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry and Managing Director of ITC.

"Industry is very keen to have the FTAs because these are important enablers to participate in global value chains, which are 70 per cent of the global trade. So, the industry is very much looking forward to it," Puri said.

Puri added that focusing on agriculture is needed to increase the income and consumption of the people employed by sector. *—ANI*

Sebi proposes AIFs flexibility to investors

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday proposed providing flexibility to alternative investment funds to offer co-investment opportunities to investors within the AIF structure.

Additionally, it has suggested removing the prohibition on investment managers of alternative investment funds (AIF) to provide advisory services in listed securities.

Co-investment, in AIF industry parlance, refers to the offering of the investment opportunity to the investors for additional investment in unlisted securities of an investee company.

Such investment opportunities are offered to investors who meet certain objective criteria, such as the size of the minimum commitment and strategic value of the investor, among others.

In its consultation paper, the regulator has proposed enabling AIFs to offer co-investment opportunities in unlisted securities through a Co-Investment Vehicle (CIV) as a separate scheme of an Alternative Investment Fund launched specifically for making a co-investment.

The report also suggested that CIV should be a scheme of the AIF which will facilitate co-investment of investors in any schemes of the AIF, in unlisted securities of investee companies of AIF.

A shelf PPM for CIV scheme should be filed with Sebi at the time of registration of AIF, if it intends to provide a co-investment facility to its investors, the regulator suggested. *—PTI*

RBI imposes Rs 1.72 cr penalty on SBI

MUMBAI, 10 MAY

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has penalised the State Bank of India with Rs 1.72 crore for non-compliance with certain directions.

As per a statement from RBI, state-owned lender failed to comply certain certain directions issued by RBI on "Loans and Advances- Statutory and Other Restriction", "Customer Protection - Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions" and "Opening of Current Accounts by Banks - Need for Discipline".

This penalty has been imposed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the bank. *—ANI*

AN EXPLAINER ON FTA

India and UK FTA to boost bilateral trade to $120 billion by 2030

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

India and UK earlier this week announced that they have concluded the negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) to boost economic ties between the two countries. The talks commenced in January 2022. It is aimed at doubling the bilateral trade in goods and services from USD 60 billion at present to USD 120 billion by 2030. The trade pact will provide enhanced market access for a wide range of Indian goods and services in UK.

Here are a few questions and answers (Q&A) explaining the benefits of the FTA.

Q: What are the major benefits for Indian industry?

A: The FTA ensures comprehensive market access for goods in all sectors, aligning with India's export interests. India will benefit from import duty elimination on around 99 per cent of tariff, covering nearly 100 per cent of trade value.

Q: Which sectors will enter the UK market at nil import duty?

A: India has gained market access in all industrial goods at "Zero duty" on entry into force. It covers sectors like leather, footwear, textile and clothing, gems and jewellery, base metals, furniture, sports goods, transport/auto components, chemicals, wood/paper, mechanical/electrical machinery, minerals.

Q: Has India safeguarded its sensitive sectors in the FTA?

A: Yes. Sensitive agri-products like dairy products, apples, cheese, oats, animals and vegetable oils are on the exclusion list, which means no duty benefits are provided by India to the UK on these items.

Sensitive industrial goods like plastics, diamond, silver, base stations, smartphones, television camera tubes, optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables are also under that list.

To further safeguard certain areas, India has agreed to cut or remove duties gradually over a longer period. These goods include ceramics, petroleum products, chemicals like carbon, red phosphorus, chlorosulphuric acid, sulphuric acid, boric acid, noble metalutions of platinum, aircraft engines, and engineering equipment.

PHOTO: CHATGPT

Q: What duty concessions has it given to the UK in the pact?

A: Import of Scotch whisky and gin from the UK will be halved to 75 per cent initially and 40 per cent by the 10th year. At present, it is 150 per cent.

Scotch whisky constitutes only 2.5 per cent of the total whisky market. The tariff reduction is over a longer period of time. The incremental increase in imports would not significantly affect the domestic market.

Tariffs on UK autos will be reduced from over 100 per cent to 10 per cent under quotas on both sides, benefiting companies like Tata-JLR. The duty cut may lead to lower prices for vehicles like Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin, and Bentley in India.

The quota to import EVs at a concessional rate of duty is limited only to a few thousand. No out-of-quota duty reduction for EVs. The sensitivity related to EVs has been taken care of.

Further, the out-of-quota duty on internal combustion engine vehicles will be reduced gradually over a longer period of time, thereby helping our industries to absorb the incremental increase of imports from the UK.

Q: What are the major benefits for the Indian services sector?

A: The UK has provided an assured regime for temporary entry and stay requirements for various categories of natural persons like business visitors, intra-corporate transferees, contractual service suppliers, independent professionals, investors and partner and dependent children of Intra-Corporate Transferees.

It has also offered mobility commitments in 36 sub-sectors under Contractual Service Suppliers, which also includes Yoga instructors, classical musicians and Chef de cuisine up to a combined total of 1,800 per year and 16 sub-sectors in Independent Professionals, which includes computer and related services, research and development services.

Q: How will India gain from signing the Double Contributions Convention agreement with the UK?

A: According to the Commerce Ministry, Indian workers who are temporarily in the UK and their employers are exempted from paying social security contributions in the UK for three years. The benefits to Indian companies and employees would exceed Rs 4,000 crore.

Q: Has India opened the government procurement sector for UK firms?

A: Yes. But the market access would be limited to the non-sensitive central level entities only, and access for sub-central level entities is excluded. UK suppliers would be allowed to bid for domestic tenders above the agreed threshold as deemed Class-II local suppliers under the public procurement.

Q: When will the FTA be implemented?

A: It will take about three months for legal scrubbing of the text. After that, the agreement will be signed, followed by approval from the Union Cabinet in India and the UK Parliament. It will be implemented on a mutually agreed-upon date. *—PTI*

Squash World C'ship: Anahat, Abhay make winning starts

CHICAGO, 10 MAY

Making a stupendous start to her World Championship campaign, young Indian squash player Anahat Singh knocked out world No. 28 American Marina Stefanoni here. The 17-year-old Anahat, ranked 62 in the world, overcame a loss in the first game to eke out a 10-12, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6 win in the opening round of the high-profile tournament on Friday. Anahat has a tough task ahead as she faces world No. 15 Fayrouz Aboelkheir next, who beat fellow Egyptian Hana Moataz 3-1 in her first round contest of the USD 656,500 tournament. Also making a winning start was India's Abhay Singh, who sent the world No. 25 Nicolas Mueller packing. The 38th-ranked Singh beat his Swiss rival 11-7, 2-11, 11-7, 11-6 in his opening round match of the men's singles event. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Graham Arnold named Iraq head coach

MELBOURNE, 10 MAY

Former Socceroos boss Graham Arnold will seek to reach the finals of another World Cup after taking the reins as coach of Iraq. The 61-year-old Sydneysider, who guided his national team to the last 16 of the global showpiece in 2022, was named as the Iraqis' head coach on Friday and will be thrown straight into rescuing their ailing World Cup quest. Arnold, who left the Australia job in September after 6 years in charge, has a tough job to get Iraq to the 2026 competition in North America with the team lying third in group B of Asian qualifying. Iraq faces two huge games aga inst leaders Korea in Basra on 5 June and second -pla ced Jordan in Am man five days later.If they win both matches, Iraq would earn qualification for the World Cup for the first time since their debut in 1986 —*PTI*

KIYG 2025: Sahu, Dhone set national youth record

PATNA, 10 MAY

Harsabardhan Sahu and Asmita Dhone stole the show with record-breaking performances as weightlifting got underway at the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025 Bihar on Saturday.Sahu, a Khelo India Athlete from Ganjam district, set two National Youth Records in the boys' 49kg class competition. Maharashtra has won nearly twice as many gold medals as its nearest rival, KarnatakaSahu, who will turn 16 on May 22, rewrote the National Youth Records for Clean and Jerk and Total with lifts of 115kg and 203kg, respectively, after an 88kg lift in Snatch.The previous records were set by Jharkhand's Babulal.—*PTI*

Gill-Pant duo set to take charge, BCCI silent on Kohli

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Flamboyant keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, in all likelihood, will be India's new vice-captain in Tests, with talented batter Shubman Gill set to take charge of the national team in the traditional format.The choice of vice-captain seems to be a straight forward one as Pant is one of India' finest Test batters in overseas conditions and Jasprit Bumrah can't be considered for the role of deputy due to his stature and also when his own fitness is iffy, making him uncertain for full series.An average of 42 plus with hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa along with seven scores between 90 and 99 makes Pant of the best batters in the format."If Bumrah isn't the captain, then there is no point offering him vice-captaincy," a BCCI source told PTI.—*PTI*

India Women's team looks to dispel tricky SL

Sri Lanka finished second with two wins

COLOMBO, 10 MAY

The Indian women's team will hope to produce a strong all-round effort against a tricky Sri Lanka and win the ODI tri-series final here on Sunday.

India's lone defeat in this event came against Sri Lanka, but Harmanpreet Kaur's side has been the most dominant team, finishing at the top of the points table with three wins from four matches.

Sri Lanka finished second with two wins and as many losses, while South Africa were at the bottom of the pile with only one win in four games.

Winning this contest will also be paramount for both India and Sri Lanka, as it would help them in the build-up to the ODI World Cup later this year.

The primary reason behind India's fine run here is their excellent batting effort. With 201 runs at an average of 67, including a century (123) against South Africa, Jemimah Rodrigues has been India's best batter.

Others like Pratika Rawal (164), Smriti Mandhana (148), and Deepti Sharma (126) have proved to be the vital cogs.

Deepti's 93 not only consolidated India's position against South Africa in a league match but also gave another example of the assurance of substance with the bat in the lower-order.

Skipper Harmanpreet, who hasn't had any big scores to her credit so far, often fails to convert starts into big scores. However, her 41 not out, 30, and 28 in the last three matches indicate a big knock could be around the corner.

Sneh Rana has been the best bowler in the competition, taking 11 wickets, which included a five-wicket haul against South Africa.

On their part, Sri Lanka will hope star batter Harshitha Samarawickrama continues to fire against India in key clashes as her 53 played a pivotal role in the hosts' win in a league match.

The 26-year-old Samarawickrama will also draw confidence from her match-winning 69 not out against India in the T20 Asia Cup final last year, which had powered the Islanders to an eight-wicket victory.

With two fifties and 177 runs in four matches, the left-handed Samarawickrama has been Sri Lanka's best batter in this series. —*PTI*

Jemimah Rodrigues and Smriti Mandhana could prove crucial in the decider on Sunday PHOTO: SRI LANKA CRICKET

TRI-SERIES FINAL

AYUSH, UNNATI LOSE IN SEMIFINAL AT TAIPEI OPEN

TAIPEI, 10 MAY

Rising shuttlers Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda ended their impressive runs with semifinal finishes in the men's and women's singles, respectively, bringing curtains down on India's campaign at the USD 240,000 BWF Taipei Open Super 300 here on Saturday.

Ayush, 20, a bronze medallist at the 2023 World Junior Championships, fought hard before going down 18-21, 17-21 to local favourite and world No. 7 Chou Tien Chen, a veteran of nearly two decades on the international circuit. Earlier, Unnati, the 2022 Odisha Masters and 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters winner, showed early promise but couldn't sustain the momentum, losing 19-21, 11-21 in 43 minutes to top seed and world No. 8 Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan, the 2022 World Junior Champion.

Armed with a powerful smash and solid net play, Ayush had beaten top names including All England runner-up Lee Chia Hao, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, and Canada's Brian Yang in earlier rounds. He began strongly against Chou, attacking the forecourt and using sharp angles to build an 8-4 lead. But a few unforced errors allowed Chou to close the gap to 10-9 before taking a narrow lead at the break. —*PTI*

ARCHERY WORLD CUP STAGE 2

Abhishek Verma-led Indian men's team bagged gold PHOTO: X@INDIAINSHANGHAI

India win gold, silver, and bronze

SHANGHAI, 10 MAY

Indian compound archers delivered a stellar performance, clinching a gold, silver, and bronze apiece in the team events at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 here on Saturday.

The highlight of the medal rush was the gold won by the men's team, comprising Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale, and Rishabh Yadav. In a tense final, they defeated Mexico 232-228.

India began strongly, taking a 2-point lead with a near-flawless 59 in the first end to Mexico's 57. The second end saw Mexico fighting back with 58, while India managed 56 to level the match at 115-115 at the halfway stage.

In the third, India edged ahead again with a 58 as Mexico posted 57, giving the Indians a slender 173-172 lead.

The Indian trio held its nerve in the end, shooting a superb 59 to seal the gold, with Mexico managing only 56.

Madhura wins maiden individual gold for India PHOTO: X

Madhura strikes gold

Madhura Dhamangaonkar capped her dream comeback event with a stunning 139-138 win over USA's Carson Krahe, clinching her maiden individual World Cup gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 here on Saturday. Madhura, who is unranked in the World Archery rankings for not competing at the international level for three years, was trailing 81-85 after a costly seven in the third end. —*PTI*

Aditi Ashok fails to cut Mizuho Americas Open

JERSEY CITY, 10 MAY

Aditi Ashok failed to cut Mizuho Americas Open after shooting a second round of even par, having previously carded 77 in the first round and finished with a total of five-over 149.

Starting on the back nine, Aditi opened the day with a birdie before dropping a shot on the 13th hole. She soon picked up another shot on the 18th hole. On the eighth, Aditi made another birdie to close the day at even par.

The first day's score of five-over par proved to be a detriment to her campaign this week as the cut fell at one under par.

Veer Ahlawat misses cut in Turkey

Veer Ahlawat followed up his first round 75 with a 73 and missed the cut at the Turkish Airlines Open here.

The only Indian in the field this week, Ahlawat, was coming back after a gap of almost six weeks.

He had two birdies, two bogeys, and a double bogey in his two-over 73 and was six-over as the cut fell at one-under.

Ahlawat's next event is likely to be the Soudal Open, where he is on the waiting list. Shubhankar Sharma will return to action at the Belgium event.

India's Saptak Talwar tied 11th in Spain

India's Saptak Talwar produced a bogey-free second round of five-under 66 to knock on the doors of the top 10 at the Challenge de Espana at Fontanals Golf Club on the Hotel Planner Tour here.

Talwar, whose first round was two-under 69, is now seven-under 135 and tied 11th. He is four shots behind the leaders, Oliver Gillberg (65-66) and Luis Masaveu (64-67), at 11-under.

Akshay Bhatia tied fourth after second day of Truist Championship

Akshay Bhatia played a round of even par on the second day of the Truist Championship to stay in the top-5 here with cards of 63-70.

Bhatia was tied-fourth at the end of the day alongside Justin Thomas (66-67), Rory McIlroy (66-67), Collin Morikawa (63-80), Si Woo Kim (65-69), and Patrick Cantlay (65-68), all at seven-under.

Diksha and Pranavi are Tied-32nd in Aramco Korea Championship

Indian golfers Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs faced contrasting fortunes, but both ended at Tied-32nd after two rounds at the Aramco Korea Championship here on Saturday.

While Diksha rallied from a disappointing front nine of three-over, Pranavi dropped three shots on her second nine, which was the front side of the course.

Diksha carded two-over 74, and Pranavi was three-over 7,5, and both are now three-over 147 for two rounds at the New Korea Country Club. —*PTI*

Foreign players fly out of India after IPL suspension

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Most of the foreign recruits in IPL franchises departed for their respective countries on Saturday following the suspension of the high-profile T20 League, which was halted for a week due to India-Pakistan border tension.

The Indian Premier League (IPL) was suspended on Friday, a day after the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals match in Dharamsala was abandoned midway following air raid alerts in neighbouring cities of Jammu and Pathankot. With the tournament suspended, the players and support staff from various franchises have begun returning to their hometowns, while several foreign players are home-bound. "Our players and extended staff have safely returned to Bengaluru and are now homebound to their respective cities and countries," RCB said in a statement.

RCB's foreign contingent includes Tim, Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Shepherd, Philip Salt, Josh Hazlewood, Ngidi, and Nuwan. Among the overseas support staff are head coach Andy Flower, bowling coach Griffith, Director of Cricket Operations Bobat, team physio Evan, and analyst Freddie. —*PTI*

ITALIAN OPEN 2025

Swiatek eliminated in 3rd round

Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff PHOTO: X

ROME, 10 MAY

Iga Swiatek suffered a shock elimination from the Italian Open on Saturday as the reigning Rome champion was dumped out by Danielle Collins 6-1, 7-5.

World number two Swiatek was hunting a fourth title at the Foro Italico but failed to get past the third round of the last major tournament before the French Open.

Collins will now face one of Elina Svitolina or fellow American Hailey Baptiste in the last 16 as the world number 35 hunts an unlikely second WTA 1000 title after winning in Miami last year.

Swiatek's early exit is a major shock for the Pole, who usually dominates her rivals on clay and has a hugely impressive record in the Italian capital.

Gauff holds nerve to enter third round

Coco Gauff survived Coming back from a set down to beat qualifier Victoria Mboko 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 as Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz both cruised through their opening matches.

World number three Gauff will play Magda Linette in the third round in Rome after prevailing despite being far from her best in a match which signalled more progress from her up-and-coming opponent. Canadian Mboko played with a maturity which defied the 153 places separating her from Gauff in the world rankings in a prime-time clash on centre court.

Casper Ruud had to struggle against a strong Bublik

Casper Ruud picked up where he left off in Madrid when he was defeated by Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan in the Masters tennis tournament in Rome on Saturday. However, the victory did not come for free. The Norwegian star won the match with the scores 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Ruud arrived in Rome fresh off a Masters 1000 victory at the Madrid Open, his biggest career triumph so far.

Now, the success will be attempted to be recreated on the red clay in the Italian capital. However, the Norwegians had a surprisingly tough time in the first match. Ruud limped to a 6-4 win in the opening set, but in the second set it was a Bublik show. —*PTI*

Chelsea completed an unbeaten season in the Women's Super League with a 1-0 home win over Liverpool on Saturday, and Arsenal held on for a 4-3 victory over Manchester United to finish second in the standings. PHOTO: X / @CHELSEAFCW

PREMIER LEAGUE

Sunderland strike late to beat Coventry 2-1

COVENTRY, 10 MAY

Goals from Wilson Isidor in the 68th minute and Eliezer Mayenda two minutes from time either side of Jack Rudoni scoring for Frank Lampard's Coventry put Sunderland in the driver's seat ahead of the return leg at its own Stadium of Light on Tuesday.

Sunderland struck late to beat host Coventry 2-1 on Friday in the first leg of the Championship semifinal playoffs. Northeastern side Sunderland is seeking promotion from England's second tier and a return to the Premier League for the first time since being relegated in 2017. Lampard said "it's half-time," with the Coventry manager looking forward to the second leg. "I've played many two-legged games Champions League football so I understand that this was never going to be over (after the first leg) and it's not over, that's for sure," Lampard said. "Sunderland will know it's not over. It's halftime — we go again. Football's not easy, it's not meant to be easy. We're one behind and they're the favorites, which is fine.

It will be a good challenge." The winner of the tie will play either Sheffield United or Bristol City at Wembley on 24 May. Sheffield won the first leg 3-0 away on Thursday, and the teams face off again at Bramall Lane on Monday. —*PTI*

Sunderland's Eliezer Mayenda celebrates scoring the winner PHOTO: X / @ELIEZER_MAYENDA

Europe-chasing Milan rally again to beat Bologna

MILAN, 10 MAY

Santiago Gimenez scored twice and had a goal disallowed as AC Milan rallied to beat Bologna 3-1 in Serie A on Friday and keep alive its hopes of European soccer next season. It was the second game in a row in which Milan had come from behind to secure three points.

Milan is eighth in the Italian league, a point above Fiorentina and two points behind a faltering Bologna. The top four will go into the Champions League, and the fifth- and sixth-placed teams qualify for the Europa League and Europa Conference League, respectively.

Juventus is fourth with 63 points, the same as the two teams behind it, Roma and Lazio. Bologna was hoping to snap a two-game winless run, and it took the lead after 48 minutes when Riccardo Orsolini cut in from the right and fired a low drive past Mike Maignan.

However, Gimenez equalized in the 73rd minute with a cool finish after Christian Pulisic set him up inside the box. —*PTI*